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Groups Sue To Stop Plans To Kill Cormorants To Save Salmon

by AP | April 21, 2015 7:16 a.m.

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Conservation groups have filed a lawsuit to stop plans to shoot more than 10,000 double-crested cormorants in the Columbia River Estuary.

Bob Salinger of Audubon Society of Portland says killing the birds to stop them from eating millions of baby salmon is a diversion from the real threat — the hydroelectric dams that kill adult fish on their way to spawning grounds, and juveniles migrating to the ocean.

The lawsuit was filed Monday in U.S. District Court in Portland against the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Wildlife Services.

The lawsuit argues the agencies failed to consider changing dam operations to protect salmon, and focused only on killing cormorants.

The agencies had no immediate comment.

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